

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 10, 12, 14 and 20, and canceled Claims 2 and 3. Claims 1 and 4-21 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 12, 14 and 20 are independent claims.

The claims in this application have been revised to more particularly define Applicant's unique construction in view of the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and for the following reasons is respectfully requested.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 6-9, and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Babu et al. Further, Claims 4, 5 and 16-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babu in view of Canon. Additionally, Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barroux in view of Babu. Further, Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barroux and Babu in view of Simionescu et al.

Applicant will advance arguments hereinbelow to illustrate the manner in which the presently claimed invention is patentably distinguishable from the cited and applied prior art. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The Babu reference is directed towards network device information collection and change detection. As the Examiner has noted, the Babu reference discloses a network 108

and a plurality of network devices 118a-118c. However, network 108 is, in fact, a network equipment system, and network devices 118a-118c are individual pieces of network equipment.

In contradistinction, the present invention is directed towards a site connected to one or more interfaces of each piece of network equipment. Particularly, the present invention includes a site connected to ports 1-8 of modules M11-M19. The device name, domain name, device type, etc. constitute information related to each piece of network equipment, but not to the site. The network devices 118a-118c are separate and distinct from a site, as defined in the subject Patent Application. Rather than teaching or suggesting a site, the Babu reference discloses individual network devices, such as a router, a Gateway Server, etc.

Further, the Babu reference fails to teach or suggest the particular functions of the automatic management module of the present invention. Specifically, the Babu reference does not teach, or even suggest, a system for managing interface changes/transformations coupled with a site code manager. Similarly, with regard to methodology, the Babu reference does not teach or even suggest the generation of codes, based upon user-selectable, pre-defined rules, in order to identify a pre-determined site, which is a key step in the present inventive methodology.

Although the Examiner has also cited the Canon reference, the Barroux reference and the of Simionescu reference, taken in various combinations with Babu, none of the these

references, when taken alone or together, teach the granting of codes according to a set of pre-defined, user-selectable rules, with each code being comprised of a plurality of multi-step codes. A similar setting of the interface information according to a pre-defined set of user-selectable rules takes place in the present inventive system, which is similarly not shown in any of the cited references, when taken alone or in combination.

Thus, neither the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference nor the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, provide for: "... said network equipment system comprises a plurality of site units, the interface information being set in each said site unit forming the network equipment system, each said site unit having an identification code associated therewith such that a predetermined site unit may be identified, whereby each said identification code is defined by user-selectable rules, each said identification code comprising a plurality of multi-step sub-codes ...", as is clearly provided by newly-amended Independent Claim 1. Further, neither the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference nor the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, provide for: "...wherein said automatic management module comprises a management target equipment list portion for managing interface changes, and a site code management portion for enabling information matched with each code to be input and displayed, whereby the site code is granted to a site connected to a port of each piece of network equipment at a pre-determined set of times using the management target list and comparing the collected information with the registration information in order to manage the network information automatically ...", as is clearly provided by newly-amended independent Claim 10.

Additionally, neither the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference nor the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, provide for: "...wherein each said code is granted according to a set of pre-defined rules in order to identify a pre-determined site, each said code being comprised of a plurality of multi-step codes ...", as is clearly provided by newly-amended Independent Claim 12. Similarly, neither the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference nor the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, provide for: "... said interface information being set according to a set of user-selectable, pre-defined rules ... when the interface information has been corrected, changing the interface information using codes of the inputted or registered information ...", as is clearly provided by newly-amended Independent Claim 14. Additionally, neither the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference nor the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, provide for: "... interface information being set according to a set of user-selectable, pre-defined rules ...", as is clearly provided by newly-amended independent Claim 20.

Thus, it is now believed that the subject Patent Application is neither anticipated by, nor made obvious by, either the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference or the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, when the Independent are carefully reviewed.

It is now believed that the remaining dependent claims show patentable distinction over the prior art cited by the Examiner for at least the same reasons as those given above with respect to the independent claims.

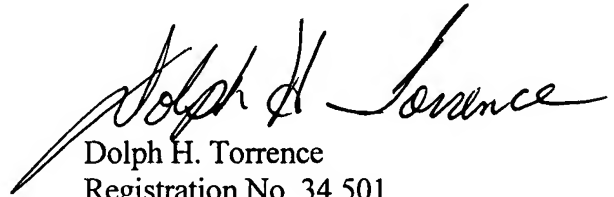
Application No. 10/607,257
Art Unit 2152

Attorney Docket No. 22987.03
Confirmation No. 4790

The remaining references provided by Applicant, but not used in the rejection, have been reviewed, but are believed to be further removed than those cited by the Examiner in the rejection when patentable distinctions are taken into account.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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DHT:mdr

Attachments: Petition for Extension of Time (Two months)
Check for \$225.00